



Rural District Council of Bromsgrove

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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
and the  
**Chief Public Health Inspector**  
for the year

1969



RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BROMSGROVE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1969

Chairman of the Council	A.H. HODGETTS ESQ.,
Vice-Chairman of the Council	E.G. CASH ESQ.,
Chairman of the Public Health Committee	E.G. CASH ESQ.,

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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A.H. CHATTIN ESQ.,	G.A. SOUTH ESQ.,

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	C.H. PHILLIPS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Chief Public Health Inspector	P.P. CHAMINGS, F.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H., (Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)
Additional Public Health Inspector	R.F. ROBINS, M.A.P.H.I., (Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector)
Assistant Public Health Inspector	K.J. SMITH
Student	R.J. LORD
Clerk	MRS. P.V. WOOLLASTON

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1969

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The health of the residents of Bromsgrove Rural District remains very satisfactory.

There is little to comment upon in Section 'A' of this Report. It is necessary, however, to draw attention to some of the differences in the number of deaths in males and females in the table of Causes of Death on Page 8 . I refer particularly to Malignant Neoplasm of the Lung and Bronchus, ischaemic heart disease and bronchitis and emphysema. There is a significant predominance in deaths in males and it is reasonable to suggest that cigarette smoking plays a large part in this.

Under Section 'B' I have the following comments.

1. Hospital Services

The District is generally well served with General and Specialist hospital facilities. The Cottage Hospital in Bromsgrove and Smallwood Hospital, Redditch, also serve a useful purpose in dealing with less serious casualties and emergencies. There is, nevertheless, a great need for the provision of a central Casualty Hospital with a department adequately staffed and equipped to serve Bromsgrove Urban and Rural districts and Redditch Urban District (with a total population of well over 100,000 to which serious casualty cases can readily be taken. The nearest existing facilities are in Birmingham and at Worcester and valuable time must be lost in carrying such cases to distant hospitals.

2. Meals on Wheels

Old people needing Meals on Wheels are confined not only to a few parts of the District where cooking facilities can be arranged and willing W.R.V.S. members are available to provide this service. The needs of a single old person in a village are just as great as elsewhere. In a reasonably organised society it should be possible to provide this service for all who need it. The School Meals Service, by means of its organisation, is able to provide meals for schoolchildren wherever there are schools and, with its dieticians, kitchens, purchasing and distribution facilities, could very well provide a Meals on Wheels service throughout the Rural District for most of the year, maintaining the service during the school holidays with skeleton arrangements. Two meals a week at present are better than none. However, improved nutrition of old people with five meals weekly would almost certainly help to keep more old people out of hospital with consequent saving on the increasing cost on the National Health Service. I have no doubt that this need could readily be met by the utilisation of the school Meal Service.

3. The Environment

The Rural District is privileged in having some of the most beautiful country in North Worcestershire which is available not only for the enjoyment of local residents but also of people from the nearby City of Birmingham and the Black Country. It is a pity some inconsiderate people, mainly builders, would soon turn parts of the country into rubbish dumps, but for the vigilance of members and officers of the Council.

It is not uncommon to find lorries and public transport churning out black smoke and polluting the atmosphere we breathe. Prosecution is not the real answer to this problem. There should be a general desire of the public to prevent this sort of pollution.

The Council has gone to much trouble and expense during the last few years to improve the sewage arrangements about the District and so improve the quality of water in the rivers. Residents must try to assist by discharging less detergent and household disinfectants into the sewers and manufacturers must endeavour to stop the discharge of large quantities of oil and chemicals which can so readily interfere with the efficient working of sewage works.

There has been a steady increase in the number and quality of houses in the District and, on the whole, the housing standards are high. There are only a few houses remaining in the unfit category and it is expected that these will be dealt with reasonably soon.

There remain only a few houses in the District without a wholesome piped water supply. Generally this is due to the distance those houses are situated from the existing mains and the considerable costs of extending these supplies to them. Each year more extensions have been carried out and the Council is frequently considering the possibility of further improvements.

#### Refuse Disposal

The time will soon arrive when there are no more holes available for filling with refuse and the Council will need to consider other means of refuse disposal.

#### Infectious Disease

It will be noted that only 20 notifiable diseases were notified during the year! One must wonder if general practitioners are bothering to carry out their obligations and notify cases of infectious disease. Or perhaps we are on the way to reaching a stage at which the notifiable diseases are virtually eliminated due to the attention given to immunisation, improved housing, sanitation and food hygiene.

I thank the Members and Officers of the Council for their help.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H. PHILLIPS,

Medical Officer of Health

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres 45,071	
Registrar General's estimate of resident population	Mid 1969 - 37,310 Mid 1968 - 37,220 Mid 1947 - 25,230 Mid 1937 - 19,260
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book	End of 1969 - 11,896 End of 1968 - 11,765 End of 1967 - 11,380 End of 1966 - 11,047 End of 1947 - 7,798 End of 1937 - 6,645
Rateable Value 31st March 1969	£1,433,318
Sum represented by a Penny Rate at 31st March 1969	£6,000

POPULATION OF PARISHES

	<u>Estimated</u>	
	<u>1939</u>	<u>1969</u>
Alvechurch	3,236	6,290
Belbroughton	2,676	2,570
Bentley Pauncefoot	344	330
Beoley	770	800
Clent	1,943	2,430
Cofton Hackett	3,736	2,080
Dodford-with Grafton	513	630
Frankley	184	140
Hagley	2,233	6,050
Hunnington	543	660
Romsley	1,070	1,810
Stoke Prior	2,130	3,000
Tutnall & Cobley	697	910
Wythall	4,482	9,610
	<u>24,557</u>	<u>37,310</u>

Average per house 3.14

# VITAL STATISTICS

(1968 figures in brackets)

## LIVE BIRTHS

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	299 (306)	290 (299)	589 (605)
Illegitimate	8 (21)	14 (9)	22 (30)
	<u>307 (327)</u>	<u>304 (308)</u>	<u>611 (635)</u>

## Birth Rate

(Births per 1,000 population)

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1969 Eng. Wales</u>
Crude	16.40	17.06	18.19	19.89	14.1	16.3 (16.9)
Comparability						
Factor	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93		
Standardised	15.30	15.86	16.92	18.49		

## Illegitimacy Rate

(Total live illegitimate births per hundred total Live Births)

<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1937</u>
3.60	4.72	6.62	4.03	3.20

## STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	4	5 (6)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (-)
	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5 (6)</u>

Still Birth Rate (Still births per 1,000 total live and still births)

<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1969 Eng. Wales</u>
8.11	9.36	14.83	14.56	38.1	13.0 (14.0)

## DEATHS

M	F	Total
178 (143)	160 (135)	338 (278)

### Death Rate (Deaths per 1,000 population)

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1969 Eng. Wales</u>
Crude						
Comparability	9.1	7.47	8.10	8.93	11.1	11.9 (11.9)
Factor	1.10	1.11	1.11	1.11		
Standardised	10.00	8.29	8.99	9.91		

### Major Causes of Death (Percentages of Total Deaths)

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>
1. Disease of the Circulatory System	46.6%	44.9%	51.7%	48.5%
2. Malignant Diseases	16.9%	21.2%	20.9%	18.2%
3. Respiratory Diseases (excluding T.B.)	13.6%	14.7%	9.9%	14.1%
4. Accidents - Motor Vehicle	0.5%	1.8%		
- All Other	1.6%	2.5%	5.1%	3.6%

## MATERNAL DEATHS

### Maternal Mortality (Maternal Deaths per 1,000 total live and still births)

<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1969-Eng. Wales</u>
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	0.19 (0.25)

## INFANT AND NEONATAL DEATHS

### Infant Deaths (under 1 year of age)

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	4	5	9(10)
Illegitimate	--	--	--(2)
	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>9(12)</u>

### Neonatal Deaths (under 4 weeks of age)

	M	F	Total
Legitimate	4	4	8 (7)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (2)
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8 (9)</u>

### Deaths of Infants under 1 week of age

Legitimate	4	4	8 (6)
Illegitimate	-	-	- (2)
	<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>9 (8)</u>

### Infant and Neonatal Mortality Rates

	<u>1969</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1966</u>	<u>1969-Eng. Wales</u>
Deaths of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.28	16.52	16.12	26.61	-
Deaths of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	66.66	22.72	-	-
Deaths of infants under 4 wks. of age per 1,000 total live births	13.09	14.17	15.06	20.16	12.0
Deaths of infants under 1 yr. of age per 1,000 total live births	14.73	18.92	16.56	25.53	18.0
Still births and deaths under 1 wk. combined per 1,000 total live & still births	21.10	21.84	29.67	34.43	23.0
Deaths of infants under 1 wk. of age per 1,000 live births	13.09	12.59	-	-	10.0

### Cause of Infant Deaths

Congenital Malformation	1
Prematurity	2
Respiratory Disease	1
Other Causes	5

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT

1969

Causes of death	M	F	Total	Mortality Rate per 1,000 pop.
B6 Tuberculosis, Other	-	1	1	.03
B19(1) Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	1	1	2	.05
B19(3) Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	4	7	.18
B19(4) Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	6	7	13	.35
B19(6) Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	12	1	13	.35
B19(7) Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	8	8	.21
B19(8) Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2	2	.05
B19(9) Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	3	-	3	.08
B19(10) Leukaemia	1	1	2	.05
B19(11) Other Malignant Neoplasms	4	10	14	.37
B20 Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	1	1	2	.05
B21 Diabetes Mellitus	2	1	3	.08
B22 Avitaminoses etc.	-	1	1	.03
B23 Anaemias	-	1	1	.03
B46(4) Other diseases of nervous system etc.	3	3	6	.16
B26 Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	1	2	3	.08
B27 Hypertensive Disease	4	8	12	.32
B28 Ischaemic Heart Disease	60	23	83	2.22
B29 Other forms of Heart Disease	3	11	14	.37
B30 Cerebrovascular Disease	23	24	47	1.26
B46(5) Other diseases of circulatory system	7	7	14	.37
B31 Influenza	3	3	6	.16
B32 Pneumonia	11	14	25	.67
B33(1) Bronchitis and Emphysema	15	8	23	.61
B33(2) Asthma	2	-	2	.05
B46(6) Other Disease of Respiratory system	1	-	1	.03
B34 Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1	.03
B35 Appendicitis	-	1	1	.03
B36 Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	1	3	4	.10
B46(7) Other diseases of Digestive System	2	-	2	.05
B39 Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1	.03
B46(8) Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	-	1	.03
B42 Congenital Anomalies	-	1	1	.03
B43 Birth injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	2	3	.08
B44 Other causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	2	4	.10
B45 Symptoms and Ill defined Conditions	-	4	4	.10
BE47 Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2	.05
BE48 All other Accidents	2	4	6	.16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>10.0</b>

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

The County Council administers the antenatal, child welfare, school health, dental and specialist clinics, where much valuable work is done towards the preservation of the health of the community and the prevention of disease. Child Health Clinics are held as follows:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Days and Time</u>
Alvechurch	The Village Hall Hopwood	1st and 3rd Wednesdays 2 p.m. 1st Tuesday
Belbroughton	The Church Hall	1st Monday 2.30 p.m.
Beoley	The Village Hall	3rd Wednesday 2 p.m.
Clent	The Parish Hall	2nd Monday 2 p.m.
Cofton Hackett	The Old Schools	2nd and 4th Tuesdays 2 p.m.
Hagley	The Parish Hall	Wednesdays 2 p.m.
	Old Dixonians Club Wassell Grove	1st Monday 2 p.m.
Romsley	Church Hall	1st Thursday 2 p.m.
Stoke Prior	The Village Hall Finstall	1st Monday 2 p.m.
Wythall	The Clinic Silver Street	Monday 2 p.m.

The Health Visiting, Home Nursing and Midwifery Services, provided by the County Council, supported by the services managed by the W.V.S., and the British Red Cross, continued to provide invaluable domiciliary help.

#### (a) Hospital Services

The following hospitals were available to the residents of the district:-

Infectious Disease	Hayley Green Hospital, Halesowen Little Bromwich Fever Hospital, Birmingham
Tuberculosis	Hayley Green Sanatorium, Halesowen
Maternity	The General Hospital, Bromsgrove Mary Stevens Maternity Hospital, Stourbridge Lucy Baldwin Maternity Hospital, Stourport The Birmingham Maternity Hospital, Birmingham
Children's Diseases	Children's Hospital, Birmingham
Venereal Disease	General Hospital, Birmingham Royal Infirmary, Worcester.
Mental Illness	Barnsley Hall Mental Hospital, Bromsgrove Powick Mental Hospital, Malvern
Chest Surgery	Hill Top Hospital, Bromsgrove
General	The General Hospital, Bromsgrove Bromsgrove Cottage Hospital Smallwood Hospital, Redditch
Aged Chronic Sick	The General Hospital, Bromsgrove

(b) Laboratory Facilities

Bacteriological examinations were carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Royal Infirmary, Worcester. Chemical analysis of water and miscellaneous specimens was carried out by the County Laboratory at Worcester. I am indebted to the Directors of these laboratories for their ready assistance and co-operation.

(c) Ambulance Service

This is provided by the County Council and the Rural District is operated from depots at Bromsgrove and Redditch.

(d) Health Education

The Council contributes to the Central Council for Health Education. Health Education is carried out mainly by the County Council.

(e) Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels services were continued in the Hagley, Stoke Prior and Wythall areas through the agency of the W.V.S. The total of meals delivered was as follows:-

Hagley	1,688
Stoke Prior	789
Wythall	1,744

1. Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The Chief Public Health Inspector in his report gives details of the Sanitary Inspections carried out during the year.

2. Water Supply

The whole supply of main water in the District is now the responsibility of various statutory water undertakings.

Most of the houses in the district were supplied with main piped water supplies which were satisfactory in quality and quantity. There were still, however, a few dwellings and farm premises with only well water supplies. These well supplies were to a large extent unsatisfactory and householders were advised to boil the water before use.

Routine sampling of drinking water from the remaining private wells, springs and boreholes for bacteriological and chemical analysis was continued, 42% of the samples being bacteriologically unsatisfactory.

Sampling at source of main supplies was done by the Water Undertakings.

During the year the following extensions of mains were effected:-

The City of Birmingham Water Department	508 yards
East Worcestershire Waterworks Company	3,527 yards
The South Staffordshire Waterworks Company	-
North West Worcestershire Water Board	367 yards

The following was the position with regard to the schemes for water main extensions:-

Alvechurch

Bell Green Area	Approved in principle by Ministry of Housing and Local Government - in abeyance
Radford Farm	Completed
Bittell Farm Road	Instructions issued to East Worcestershire Waterworks Co. Not commenced

Stoke Prior

Finch End and  
Finstall Park Farm

In abeyance

Wythall

Dark Lane

Work completed

Drainage and Sewerage

The following are the sewage disposal works situated in the District and operated by this Authority:

Alvechurch	Lye Bridge
Clent	Hossill Lane
Belbroughton	Weybridge
Hagley	Sweetpool Lane
Hunnington	Illey Lane
Finstall	Pumping Station to Bromsgrove U.D.C.
Stoke Prior	Henbrook Disposal Works, Shaw Lane

Following is a summary with regard to the programme of capital works of sewers and sewage disposal as recently considered by the Council:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Alvechurch	Grange Lane	Scheme prepared by Consulting Engineers and approved by Council, Relevant notices served. Negotiations to be opened for purchase of two small areas of land as sites for pumping stations.
	Rowney Green	Instructions given to Consulting Engineers to prepare scheme. Survey work completed and draft drawings in course of preparation.
	Bordesley area	Sewers will drain to Redditch but scheme dependent on improvement of disposal works.
	Lye Bridge works extension	Work completed.
	Bittell Road and Bittell Lane	Consulting Engineers instructed to prepare scheme on receipt of results of tests to be conducted by Surveyor. Tests not yet completed
Belbroughton	Fairfield (including Stoneybridge extension)	Work completed.
	Improvement of Disposal Works, Weybridge.	Survey being conducted to determine the influx of storm water into the foul sewers draining to the works.
Beoley	Holt End	Work completed.
Clent	Re-sewering of Woodman Lane	Work to be undertaken as part of scheme for construction of additional sewers in parishes of Hagley and Clent.
	Relief sewer, Newfield Road	Tender for the work accepted.
Hagley	Reconstruction of part of sewer, off Middlefield Lane	Scheme in course of preparation by Surveyor .

Hagley (ctd.)	New outfall sewers from north to disposal works  Improvements at disposal works	Instructions given to Consulting Engineers to prepare contract documents and to include for new sewer at Woodman Lane, Clent.  Scheme in course of preparation by Consulting Engineers for submission to Ministry of Housing and Local Government for approval.
Hunnington	Trunk sewer from Illey Lane disposal works to sewers of Upper Stour Main Drainage Authority	Spray equipment installed and will remain in operation until scheme for draining area to sewers of Drainage Authority completed. Instructions given to Consulting Engineers to prepare contract documents.
Stoke Prior	Henbrook works re-construction	Spray irrigation equipment installed to alleviate matters until re-construction scheme completed. Reconstruction scheme commenced.
Wythall	Inkford and Tanners Green (Hill Lane, Birmingham Road, Barkers Lane and Mill Lane, branch off Mill Lane and Dipple Lane)  Shawbrook area	Trunk sewer to be extended as far as Lowbrook Bridge where it will receive sewage from properties in Norton Lane. Subject to a detailed survey being made it will be available to receive sewage from Inkford and Tanners Green areas. Consulting Engineers have been instructed to investigate and prepare a scheme.  This scheme can proceed only when a new trunk sewer is constructed by the Upper Tame Main Drainage Authority.

During the past seven years the following schemes have been completed:-

Alvechurch	Lye Bridge disposal works re-construction Bittell Road, sewerage of Village area, sewerage of part of
Belbroughton	Fairfield village area, sewerage of
Beoley	Holt End sewerage and sewage disposal
Clent	Field Lane, sewerage of (part) Horse Pasture, abolition of old broad irrigation system and sewerage to Hagley disposal works
Frankley	M.5 service area, sewerage of
Hagley	Haybridge Avenue, sewerage of remainder of (minor scheme)
Romsley	Dark Lane, sewerage of part of
Wythall	Station Road and Alcester Road, sewerage of Peterbrook Road, Majors Green, small sewer extension (minor scheme)

#### Pail Emptying

The Pail Emptying service was continued at weekly intervals in areas of the Parishes of Beoley, Frankley, Stoke Prior and Wythall.

A total of 79 households were served.

#### 4. Public Cleansing

This service is administered by the Surveyor's Department. Domestic refuse is collected weekly in the built up areas of the district and fortnightly in the more rural areas. Cesspools are emptied free of charge three times a year.

## SECTION D

### HOUSING

As will be seen from figures under Section A of this report the population of the district was increased by 90. At the end of the year there were 485 applicants on the Council's housing list compared with 502 at the end of 1968.

20 Council houses and flats were first let during the year whilst 100 were built by private enterprise.

Details of action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts are included in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Routine inspections of food premises were continued during the year and every effort was made to ensure clean and safe handling of foodstuffs. Further reference to the subject is made in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report.

#### Food Poisoning

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

## SECTION F

### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

#### Notifiable Diseases 1969

DISEASE	Corrected Notifications
Smallpox	-
Diphtheria	-
Scarlet Fever	6
Measles	9
Whooping Cough	-
Typhoid Fever	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Dysentery	4
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Acute Encephalitis	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Pneumonia	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Malaria	-
Food Poisoning	1
TOTAL	20

#### Diphtheria Immunisation

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows:-

<u>Primary Immunisation</u>	245(506)
Re-inforcing (Booster) injections	683(966)

#### Measles

The number of children immunised during the year was as follows:-

Age at 31.12.69 ie Born in Year	Under 1 1969	1 1968	2 1967	3 1966	4-7 1962-5	Total
	-	40	65	59	76	240

Smallpox

No case of smallpox was reported.

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1969:-

Age at 31.12.69 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1969	1 1968	2 - 4 1965- 1967	5 - 15 1954- 1964	Total
Number vaccinated	6	225	89	22	342
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	8	21	29

Whooping Cough

Number of children who have completed a primary course (normally 3 injections) of pertussis vaccine (singly or in combination) in the Authority's area during the year ended 31.12.69:-

Primary	224 (468)
Re-inforcing	216

Tetanus

Primary courses (usually given in combination with  
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough) - 262

Re-inforcing doses (usually in combination with  
Diphtheria and Whooping Cough at 18 months  
or with Diphtheria at 5 years and 8 years) - 713

Tuberculosis

Incidence & Mortality during 1969

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15- 24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25- 44	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45- 64	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year

The total number of registered cases was 92 (94) as follows:-

	M.	F.	Total
Pulmonary	48	36	84
Non-Pulmonary	5	3	8
	53	39	92

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1969

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
BROMSGROVE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In presenting the Environmental Section of my Department's Report for 1969 I write in reminiscent mood as I look back over 25 years' service to your Council and it is with a sense of fulfillment that I record the progress over the years in the provision of the necessary services, water, sewage and refuse collection which compares favourably with other Rural Districts in the Midlands Region.

When I first came it was difficult to obtain beds in the Sanatoria of the County, but due to the new techniques and drugs for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and the complete eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis from the dairy herds of the County, the position has completely changed with the consequent closure of most of the Sanatoria.

As one of your Members on the Midlands Joint Advisory Council for Clean Air I have been pleased to represent the Rural interests in this important field of Environmental health and whilst there is still much to be done, am happy to record the general improvement in the Midland area with its large urban conurbation due to the introduction of Smoke Control areas. In this District it is not a serious problem but many of your residents have automatically become "smoke controlled" due to their using smokeless solid fuels, gas, electricity, or oil. When I first looked across the valley from the slopes of the Clent Hills to the Black Country early in 1945 I was appalled by the impenetrable bank of smoke that met my gaze. Today the picture is quite different and it is only on rare occasions that one is unable to look for miles and whilst it is part of the industrial area of the West Midlands, the old adage no longer obtains as it did before - "WHERE THERES MUCK THERES MONEY".

Over the years too there has been a marked improvement in the housing conditions in the District, formal action having been taken in respect of 200 houses under the provisions of the Housing Acts besides a considerable number of cases of informal action and also particular attention as been given to the retention of houses and cottages that are of architectural interest or value. In this connection, since the coming into force of legislation permitting houses to be improved with the aid of Discretionary or Standard Grants much good work has been done, resulting in many houses being brought up to a fit standard and provided with all amenities; i.e. bathroom with a lavatory basin, w.c., hot and cold water supply, etc. A total of 429 Discretionary Grant applications and 355 Standard Grant applications have been approved and at most the work has already been completed or is in progress.

A constant vigil is also kept on all shops, restaurants, canteens, hotels and public houses and any complaints regarding food or premises are fully investigated and it is a pleasure to record the high degree of co-operation that we have invariably received thus rendering the use of the "Big Stick" unnecessary.

We are proud to of the excellent Rodent Control service given freely to the general public and chargeable to factories, shops and agriculture - resulting in an income of £416 during the year 1969, and the Council will be glad to know that we do not have any "Warfarin resistant" rats in the Bromsgrove Rural Area. At the time of writing I am not aware of a major infestation of rats anywhere within the District.

Many years ago your Council asked me to be responsible for keeping the District tidy and personally I have always considered this an important aspect of environmental health, but I regret to say that in spite of all the publicity given to this matter we appear to be fighting a losing battle and it is only because of constant vigil and expenditure that I am able to tell you that your District is one of the cleanest from a litter point of view in the West Midlands.

Last, but not least I value the number of friends I have made through personal contacts when seeking to help solve the many complaints and problems which constantly comes to one's desk. Fortunately my Inspectors and myself are not known by numbers from a remote office somewhere in Worcestershire and I trust that this vital personal touch with the public one serves will ever be maintained.

In concluding I would pay tribute to the loyal support of Messrs. Fred Robins (22 years with the Council) and Ken Smith (35 with the Council) without whose help this Report would not be possible.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PEARSON P. CHAMINGS

Chief Public Health Inspector

## COMPLAINTS

A total of 246 complaints were received during the year 1969 all of which were investigated and appropriate action taken.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are the numbers and nature of Inspections made during the year:-

Houses Inspected	711
Number of inspections and re-inspections of houses	1,778
Visits re complaints and nuisances	246
Visits re Meat Inspection	382
Visits re Notifiable Diseases	30
Milk and Dairies	1
Piggeries	85
Schools	5
Factories and Workshops	25
Outworkers' Premises	-
Moveable Dwelling	136
Water Supply	74
Works in Progress	526
Drainage	622
Shops etc (re unfit food)	8
Visits to shops and food premises	433
Rodent Control	104
Canal Boats	-
Outside Interviews	737
Verminous Premises	-
Miscellaneous	610
Offices and Shops	77
Animal Boarding Establishments	55
Total number of informal notices served during the year	67

### HOUSING

#### 1. Inspections of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(i)	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	711
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,778
(ii)	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	Nil
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purposes	Nil
(iii)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	15
(iv)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) not found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	25

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 51

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act 1957:-

- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs -
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
  - (a) by Owners -
  - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners -

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 1
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
  - (a) by Owners -
  - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners -

C. Proceedings under Sections 16 and 23 of the Housing Act 1957:-

- (i) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 13
- (ii) Number of dwelling-houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure 15
- (iii) Number of Undertakings accepted under Section 16 -
- (iv) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 2
- (v) Number of dwellings where Demolition Orders were substituted for Closing Orders 7

General - Housing

Thirteen Demolition Orders and two Closing Orders were made during the year. Fifteen sub-standard houses were demolished as a result of formal and informal action. Also 7 Demolition Orders were substituted for Closing Orders made over a period of years on a block of houses.

Discretionary Grants

Applications were approved during the year for 13 houses.

Work was completed at 11 houses and grants totalling £3,113 were certified for payment.

### Standard Grants

Twenty-eight applications were approved during the year. Certificates for payment of grants totalling £4,849. 11. 7d were issued in respect of 26 houses.

### Rent Act 1957

One application for a Certificate of Disrepair was received during the year, and the Certificate was issued.

### MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The Camping Club of Great Britain continued to maintain their holiday site at Romsley in a satisfactory manner.

Twenty-five licences in respect of a total of 342 Caravans were in force during the year.

The Council owns and operates a site for gypsies at Houndsfield Lane, Wythall, where sites are provided for 12 caravans.

The Council brought into use their caravan site at Wythye Heath, Wythall and at the end of the year 72 of the 98 plots were occupied.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### (a) Milk

As the District was in a "specified area" all milk sold to the public had to be under one of the authorised Special Designations and consequently no samples of non designated milk were taken. It will be appreciated that a large percentage of the milk retailed in the District was bottled in other Authorities' areas where it was regularly sampled.

#### (b) Meat and Other Foods

There are five licensed slaughterhouses in the District. All animals were inspected and this entailed some extra work at weekends and in evenings.

Following is a summary of the inspections and condemnations which took place:-

# CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs and Sheep	Pigs
Number Killed	406	-	6	1,975	505
Number inspected	406	-	6	1,975	505
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	29	-	-	24	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	7.14%	-	16.6%	.49%	1.21%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	.23%	-	-	-	-

Routine visits were made to food shops, cafes and public houses for the inspection of premises and examination of food stuffs and in the main, conditions were reasonably satisfactory.

During the year 71 samples of various foodstuffs, including cooked meats, pies, sausages, etc., were taken from premises within the district and submitted for examination. In no case was the organism of salmonella or dysentery found.

The following is a summary of foodstuffs of various kinds which were condemned as unfit for human consumption at retail food premises during the year:-

13 lbs. Canned Meats  
93 lbs. Assorted Canned Foods

## (c) Ice Cream

The total number of registrations in force for premises for the retail sale of ice cream was 107.

Seventy-two samples were submitted during the year for bacteriological examination and the results of the samples were as follows:-

Provisional Grade 1	41	Satisfactory
2	24	Satisfactory
3	5	Unsatisfactory
4	2	Unsatisfactory

The unsatisfactory samples were followed up and satisfactory results obtained.

### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT

Sixteen licences to slaughter animals were issued under the above Act during the year.

### HOUSE DRAINAGE

Ten existing houses were provided with cesspools during the year whilst the drainage from 110 houses was connected to the sewer and the cesspools abolished. These were mainly in the Fairfield area of Belbroughton Parish, Holt End, Beoley and Heybridge Avenue, Hagley.

Also 104 new houses were connected to sewers and 16 to cesspools.

The question of providing sewers to various parts of the District and improving disposal works where necessary was considered by the Council during the year.

### WATER SUPPLY

#### MAINS

Five samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological and chemical examination and were satisfactory.

#### PRIVATE WELLS AND SPRINGS

Twenty-three samples were taken from wells and springs for bacteriological examination only, of which 13 were satisfactory and 10 unsatisfactory.

Seventeen existing premises were connected to the water main in 1969.

#### NEW MAINS LAID

A total of 4,402 yards of new mains were laid by the various Water Undertakings within the District during the year. These extensions were principally to supply new development in various parishes.

### DISINFESTATION

No house was found to be in need of disinfestation.

All the Council refuse tips were periodically treated for flies and crickets where necessary by the Surveyor's Department.

### RODENT CONTROL

A full time Rodent Operative is employed. A total of 517 infestations of private houses and business premises and 195 agricultural premises were successfully treated. A total of 1,268 visits were made.

During the year the Council continued to provide a free service for the destruction of rats and mice at private dwellings but in the case of business premises a charge was made as previously.

Sixty-two contracts were made for the treatment of business and agricultural premises during the year and the income from this source amounted to £416.

Due to the co-operation of the public, possibly because of free service, 211 infestations were notified. These were in early stages and were thus only of a minor nature but it seems essential to continue the service to prevent any large-scale build-up.

### OFFICES, SHOPS & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

At the end of 1969, the number of premises registered was as follows:-

Offices	28
Retail Shops	63
Catering Establishments	32

I would point out that many of the shops in this District are family businesses, not employing staff, and therefore not subject to registration under the Act.

Offices at factories subject to the Factories Act are registered with H.M. Inspector of Factories and not the Council.

No accidents to employees were notified during the year.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1949

No case occurred during the course of the year where it was necessary to make arrangements for the burial, under the provisions of the above Act, of a person dying within the District.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT

The number of industrial premises is not large and as a result air pollution from factory chimneys did not present a problem.

### NOISE ABATEMENT

Complaints were received during the year of noise arising from industrial premises and from the practising of a "pop" group. Informal approach to the parties concerned achieved satisfactory results.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963

Licences in respect of 15 boarding establishments were issued during the year.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Premises	Number of			
	Number on Register	Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)
1. Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	77	23	2	-
3. Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers premises)	2	2	-	-
TOTAL	79	25	2	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS  (1)	No. of Cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (7)
	Found  (3)	Remedied  (4)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	2	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (Not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-	3	-	3	-





